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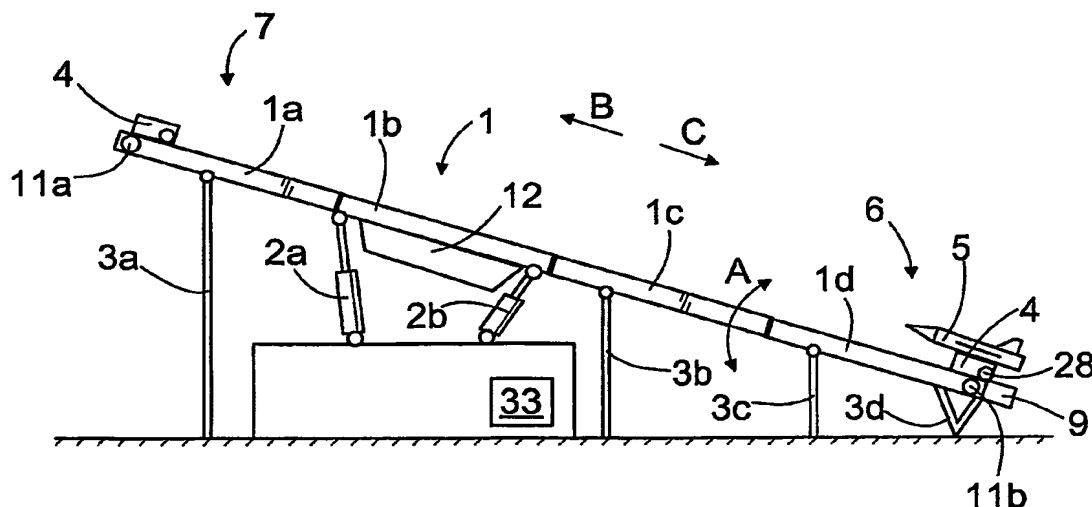
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(54) Title: METHOD OF LAUNCHING A CATAPULT, CATAPULT, AND LOCKING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of launching a catapult, to a catapult and to a locking device for a catapult. The catapult comprises a carriage (4) for fastening an aircraft (5). The carriage (4) can be provided with a high acceleration by directing a launching force ( $F_1$ ) generated by a launching device thereto. The carriage (4) can be held at a launching position (6) by means of the locking device (9). The catapult further comprises a takeoff damper (34) that generates a damping force ( $F_2$ ) having a direction opposite relative to the launching force. Accordingly, the takeoff damper (34) restricts the acceleration of the carriage (4) at the initial launching moments.



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